

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
 East Texas Ag Services - Removal Polrep
 Final Removal Polrep



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 Region VI**

Subject: POLREP #2
 Final
 East Texas Ag Services

Athens, TX
 Latitude: 32.2064500 Longitude: 95.8558280

To: R6 PolRep TX, Response and Prevention Branch
 Carl Edlund, Superfund Division
 Crossland Ronnie, Response and Prevention Branch

From: Mark Hayes, Environmental Engineer, OSC

Date: 5/30/2014

Reporting Period: 5/30/2014

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	Contract Number:	
D.O. Number:	Action Memo Date:	
Response Authority: CERCLA	Response Type:	Emergency
Response Lead: PRP	Incident Category:	Removal Action
NPL Status: Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date: 5/29/2014	Start Date:	5/29/2014
Demob Date: 5/30/2014	Completion Date:	6/1/2014
CERCLIS ID:	RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:	State Notification:	
FPN#:	Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

On May 29, 2014 at approximately 1730 a fire started in a building located at 105 W. Larkin St., Athens, Henderson County, Texas. The building is owned by East Texas Ag Services and reportedly housed up to 70 tons of Ammonia Nitrate. Other products stored at the facility include Diammonium Phosphate (DAP), Potassium Magnesium Sulfate (K-Mag), Potash, and some non-combustible filler material. Athens Fire Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator issued an evacuation order for residents and business occupants within a 5 block radius. EPA mobilized the On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) and Superfund Technical Assessment Response Team (START) to investigate.

1.1.2 Site Description

1.1.2.1 Location

105 W. Larkin St., Athens, Henderson County, Texas

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Potential detonation of the ammonium nitrate is imminent due to smoldering and structural damage from a fire.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

Preliminary air monitoring results showed no elevated readings within designated evacuation areas.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

On May 29, 2014 at approximately 1730 a fire started in a building located at 105 W. Larkin St., Athens, Henderson County, Texas. The building is owned by East Texas Ag Services and reportedly housed up to 70 tons of Ammonia Nitrate. Other products stored at the facility include Diammonium Phosphate (DAP), Potassium Magnesium Sulfate (K-Mag), Potash, and some non-combustible filler material. Athens Fire Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator issued an evacuation order for residents and business occupants within a 5 block radius.

On May 29, 2014 at approximately 2040 hrs., EPA deployed START 3 to assist with air monitoring activities and photo and written documentation of site operations. At approximately 0010 hrs. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and EPA established 4 quadrants centered around the fire location for the purpose of continued air monitoring operations throughout the response. Each quadrant was approximately 1/4 mi. x 1/8 mi. and extended beyond the 5 block radius evacuation zone. START 3 conducted air monitoring activities throughout all 4 quadrants with monitors equipped with sensors capable of detecting Ammonia (NH₃), Nitrogen Oxide (NO), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), Lower Explosive Limit (LEL), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Oxygen (O₂), and Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S). Data collection was completed by START 3 for 25 locations throughout the 4 quadrants at approximately 0400 hrs. on 30 May 2014. Results from air monitoring indicated no significant readings above action levels. TCEQ's response contractors and the Civil Support Team (CST) conducted air monitoring for NO, NO₂, NH₃, Chlorine (Cl₂), particulate matter, and VOCs throughout evacuated areas. CST reported all air monitoring results below action levels.

As material within the facility continued to smolder, EPA continued air monitoring activities through approximately 1600 hours May 30, 2014. Areas monitored adjacent to the facility boundaries included nearby residences and businesses. Ammonia concentrations up to 8 ppm were detected approximately 40 feet immediately downwind (West) of the facility. At approximately 1530 hours, no smoldering of material was observed and EPA air monitoring was discontinued.

Fire fighting suppression waters were contained within bermed areas located on the northern end of the facility. EPA START collected a sample of accumulated fire fighting suppression water and submitted to a laboratory for waste profile analysis. Expedited analysis has been requested and initial results are expected over the weekend, with final results available on or before Tuesday, 3 June.

TCEQ subcontracted the removal of the fire fighting suppression liquids contained within the bermed areas. Approximately 4,500 gallons of liquid were recovered and staged in a frac-tank on-site for disposal at a later date. Fencing was installed along the facility perimeter. 24-hr on-scene security was provided.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

START 3, TCEQ contractors, and CST conducted air monitoring throughout the air monitoring quadrants established by EPA and TCEQ. TCEQ contractors recovered and secured fire fighting suppression liquids into frac-tanks for disposal.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>
Firefighting Water	Liquid	4,500 gal	Pending	Pending	Pending

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

No other EPA site activities anticipated at this time. EPA will continue to coordinate with federal state and local response and investigative actions and provide support as needed.

TCEQ will provide support as needed.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

TCEQ will monitor for any additional accumulation of water within bermed areas. Recovered firefighting suppression water is planned for disposal pending laboratory waste profile analysis.

A site investigation into the cause of the fire will be lead by the Texas Fire Marshall and the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives (ATF) with other State and local agencies supporting

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

EPA START demobilized on 5/30/2014. EPA will continue to coordinate with State and local agencies and provide support as needed.

2.2.2 Issues

2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

2.5 Other Command Staff

No information available at this time.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

TCEQ

Texas Fire Marshall

US EPA

Texas Department of Public Safety

Athens Fire Department

Henderson County Emergency Management

US Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF)

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

4. Personnel On Site

No information available at this time.

5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

6. Additional sources of information

No information available at this time.

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.